Under the programmes/project, incentives are provided to farmers for use of high yielding varieties of seeds, application of integrated pest management, propagation of scientific water management including micro irrigation and use of improved farm implements. Research is also being continuously undertaken to develop improved technologies so as to enhance the productivity and production of foodgrains.

Policy for Marginal and Small Farmers

2320. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have evolved a new policy affecting marginal and small farmers in the States, particularly, in Himachal Pradesh which consists of vast number of backward areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether Government propose to offer them in Himachal Pradesh any special package of reliefs and incentives;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (e) There is no policy or special package other than ongoing central sector/ centrally sponsored schemes for the benefit of all categories of farmers, including small and marginal, in all states, including Himachal Pradesh. Some of the schemes benefiting small and marginal farmers in Himachal Pradesh are:-

1. Central Sector rice minikit programme;
2. Integrated Cereal Development Programme in Wheat Based Cropping System Areas (ICDP-Wheat);
3. Accelerated Maize Development Programme;
4. Oil seeds Production Programme;
5. Development of Mushroom;
6. Integrated Development of Vegetables including root, and tuber crops;
7. Integrated Development of fruits (Tropical and Arid Zone fruits);
8. Promotion of Agricultural mechanisation among small farmers;
9. Central sector scheme on women in agriculture:

10. National Agricultural Insurance Scheme;

11. Transport subsidy on movement of seeds.

Assistance to Maharashtra for Feed and Fodder

2321. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have provided Central assistance to Maharashtra for feed and fodder of the livestock during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise;

(c) whether the drought prone areas of the State have been covered;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) action proposed to be taken by Government in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India has provided assistance to Government of Maharashtra under Central Minikits testing programme of fodder crops and Assistance to States for feed and fodder development. The yearwise breakup as follows:—

Particulars	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Number of Central Minikits of fodder crops supplied	17,542	19,500	21,000
Assistance to State under Centrally Sponsored Scheme For Feed and Fodder Development (Rs. in lakhs)	2.67	4.56	—

(c) Drought prone areas have partially been covered.

(d) Question does not arise.

(e) As mentioned at (b) above.

Development of livestock and poultry

2322. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to develop livestock and poultry in Ninth Plan;